



Sylhet Energy and Mineral Resources Minister, Dr Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain speaking at a review meeting of Rural Electrification in Sylhet held at the district Palli Bidyuth Samity (PBS) office recently. Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman and Energy and Mineral Resources, Secretary M Faizur Razaque were also present during the meeting. Earlier, (R) Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman inaugurated the Bidhuth Adalat for greater Sylhet region. — Star photos.

Over 5 lakh people suffer due to poor medical services

By Gobinda Bar, back from Madaripur and Gopalganj.

Some five lakh people of several areas of Madaripur and Gopalganj district are facing untold sufferings due to absence of electricity, joblessness, absence of proper medical facilities and poor communication system.

The local people, most of whom are marginal farmers told this correspondent that absence of irrigation system, lack of industrialisation and the water logging in the land are causing multiple problems to them.

People of Kadambari, Amran, Khalia, and Bajitpur unions of Madaripur district, Satpar, Singa, Kalabari, Tuthamandra and Kalabari unions of Gopalganj district have almost no medical facilities. Local people have no alternative but to see village kabiraj in case of

any diseases or difficulties. So, the people are being deprived of proper treatment. Some people at Kadambari and Narikelbari unions alleged that the health complexes at Razair and Kotalipara thana have almost no use to them for its mismanagement and poor services.

Bad communication system is another crucial dimension of distress for the people.

People of some remote areas of Razair, Kotalipara and Gopalganj thana have to walk some seven miles to get a bus. No other vehicles ply along the deteriorating unmetalled roads. The people have to suffer round the year as we have neither road transport nor water transport facility," said a student, Djendranath Mandal at Kadambari. "Despite

repeated demands, the administration is yet to take steps to improve the communication system. It becomes trouble some for the people to travel during the rainy seasons when they cannot travel either on foot or by boat" — he added.

Most of the areas of Razair, Gopalganj and Kotalipara thana have no electricity. As a result, the farmers are not getting irrigation facilities.

Unemployment problem is causing further difficulties to the people. Most of the people of the areas, who are landless or marginal farmers become jobless after the cultivation and harvesting season. The salaries for the day-labourers are inadequate too. So, the marginal farmers and labourers have to go to the nearby district headquarters very often to seek for jobs.

Thousands of acres of land of the area remain under water almost all round the year due to the lack of drainage system. These land remain uncultivated even for several years. The some canals that were being used to drain away water from the marshy lands. But these canal serves to purpose now. That is why, the farmers have to suffer.

Former student leader Advocate Gobinda Tagore, who is an inhabitant of Kadambari union told this correspondent that the people of the entire area need improved communication system, electricity, scientific agricultural system and medical facilities to improve the infrastructural condition of the area. "We should put an emphasis on rural development if we want to survive. In this respect, the government should take step to improve the infrastructural condition or the area as well as the rest of the country," — the young advocate added.

Fall of BNP govt imminent: Col Shawkot

By Staff Correspondent

SHARIATPUR, Jan 2: Chairman of the Muktyoddha Sanghati Parishad, Col (Rtd) Shawkot Ali has said that fall of the BNP government is imminent.

Shawkot Ali who resigned as a member of Parliament, along with other AL members was on December 28 was addressing a public meeting at Gongaganagar of the sadar thana of the district on December 29. He said, Opposition members of Parliament resigned due to the obstinacy of the government. After the resignation of the Opposition, Parliament has become illegal. So BNP should dissolve Parliament. Only fresh polls, is the only solution, he added.

Organised by the Thana Committee and presided over by thana AL president Advocate Sultan Hossain Miah the meeting was also addressed by former MP Alhaj Aminul Islam Danesh, Abdur Rab Munshi, Advocate Matiar Rahman, Master Abdul Fazal, Advocate Sultan Ahmed Simon, Amjad Hossain Saodagar, Tanai Mollah, ABM Moazzamul Hossain.

Tractor-minibus head-on collision, one killed

SATKHIRA, Jan 2: A tractor driver was killed in a head on collision with a mini-bus at Jhaudanga bazar near the town on Jessore-Satkhira road on Sunday, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Jahan Ali. Police and witnesses said, the accident took place while a Jessore bound mini-bus was giving side to the tractor coming from opposite direction.

The tractor driver fell down and was crushed under the wheels of the minibus. Police seized the minibus but the driver managed to escape.

Road mishaps claim 3 in Tangail, Jamalpur

TANGAIL, Jan 2: Two persons were alleged by killed and nine others were injured in a road accident near Hinganagar on Tangail-Elashin road recently, reports BSS.

The accident occurred when a minibus met a head on collision with an autorickshaw. Of the injured persons, six including driver of the auto-rickshaw were admitted to Tangail sadar hospital. The rest were given first aid.

A case was registered with Deidaur thana police. Another UNB reports from Jamalpur adds: A rickshaw-puller was killed and a passenger was injured in a road accident at Beltia on Dhaka-Jamalpur highway on Saturday.

Witnesses said, a speedy jeep hit the rickshaw of Chanu Mollah, 25 of Charishi Devlibari in Titpallah union in sadar thana and ran over him in the evening. He died on the spot and his rickshaw was badly damaged.

The body was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy.

'People are starting to get benefit of uplift projects'

KISHOREGANJ, Jan 2: Deputy Minister for Shipping ABM Zahedul Haque formally opened the 50 feet long bridge built at a cost of Taka 15 lakh over river Narasunda at Ashutia under Pakundia thana here, reports BSS.

The deputy minister also inaugurated three new school buildings constructed at a cost of Taka three lakh of Shalojani Dakil Madrasa, Totarjangan Primary School and Charpalash High School under Pakundia. Addressing a separate gathering Haque said, politics pursued by the BNP government is aimed at the welfare of the people. He said, the government has attached priority in building infrastructure of educational institutions to help provide education to all.

Listing various ongoing development programmes initiated by the present government the deputy minister said, people are now getting benefit of the programmes.

The deputy minister also inaugurated a rural road constructed by CARE at Pakundia.

In greater M'singh dists Abnormal price hike of fertilizer, agri output hit

JAMALPUR, Jan 2: Fertilizer price has been increasing abnormally in six districts of greater Mymensingh causing concern among the farmers, reports UNB.

According to fertilizer dealers and Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation, in the last one month retail price of per bag Urea has increased by Tk 90.

Jamuna Urea Fertilizer Factory (JUFF) in Jamalpur district is the main source of fertilizer in greater Mymensingh and northern zone.

Farmers said, price of fertilizer has been increasing due to flaw in distribution system. They said, they are buying urea at Tk 275 instead of factory price at Tk 186.25.

Fertilizer dealers alleged that some officials of JUFF engaged in fertilizer business in fictitious names were responsible for artificial scarcity in the market. They also alleged that they

are being forced to give tolls to some workers of the JUFF. They alleged factory authorities allotted eight tons of fertilizers against each farmers per week but most of the farmers of the area have no capacity to buy this quantity of fertilizer. Taking advantage, some labour leaders and officials lift the fertilizer against the fake farmers quota and sell it in the blackmarket, they added.

The dealers said they submitted a prayer to the concerned authorities to probe into the matter, malpractices and irregularities of officials and labour leaders of the factory on November 20 but no step has yet been taken in this regard.

They urged to the government to take immediate steps to check the price and malpractice of the fertilizer to help boost production in the greater Mymensingh district.

Ambitious plan to ensure drinking water, education

JAMALPUR, Jan 2: An ambitious programme has been undertaken to ensure supply of pure water and primary health care to each family and remove illiteracy from the Madarganj thana of the district within next one year.

The programme was started at the thana from the last November at a cost of Tk five crore by the Environmental Core Team in the district.

The organisation has already distributed 1200 sanitary latrines free of cost among the villagers of Sidhuli union.

"All the rest of the families of the union will have sanitary latrines within the next March", the officials said adding they have already ensured pure water supply to each family of the union.

Samaj Progoti Sangstha, a member NGO of the ECT organised a function recently on the occasion of free distribution of tubewells and sanitary latrines at Shyamganj-Kalibari bazar.

ECT Chairman Shamsul Huda talking to the UNB said the programme has been taken considering the backwardness of the thana.

Before launching the programme only six per cent families were using sanitary latrines and 15 per cent of total villagers were enjoying drinking water facilities, local people said.

"Poverty is the main reason of this terrible situation" thana administration said adding '89 per cent of the total thana population live below poverty line'. The rate of literacy in 8 unions of the thana was also negligible.

Preparations have already taken to enroll all the boys and girls of the thana to different schools and education centres during the current academic session.

ECT officials said after successful completion of the programme in the thana they would launch similar programme to other thanas.

He had courage, fiery eyes

From Atiur Rahman

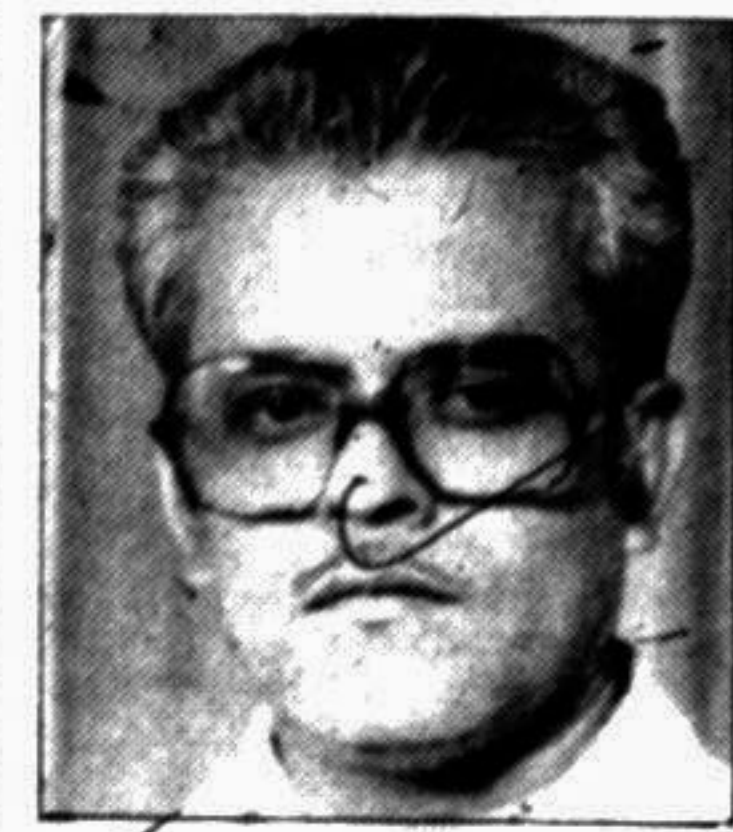
JESSORE, Jan 2: He faced the enemy with rifle in one hand, camera in other. It was his daily work. Sometimes he used to open fire on enemy, sometimes took pictures of enemy actions. Most of his pictures, taken during the

He started taking pictures of tea-garden labourers and supplying to them at nominal rate there. Soon he was tired and left for Rangpur where he stayed with his sister there. He opened a studio here and came in contact with some journal-

former director-general of Bangla Academy, Dr Mozammel Islam, took some rare pictures on Liberation War from him for use as document. National Liberation History Parishad also took pictures from him as documentary evidence in sup-

on enemy actions during Liberation War of 1971. It is the best collection of Liberation War pictures.

Erstwhile former East Pakistan Government, had declared 'reward of rupees 10,000 for arrest of SM Shafi



S M Shafi

Liberation War were published in different national and international dailies. These pictures helped mobilise world opinion in favour of Liberation War and outrage sentiment against the enemy — the Pakistan Army.

This photographer as well as a Freedom Fighter (FF) was SM Shafi, better known as Shafi Bhai in Jessore.

Shafi Bhai used both his rifle and camera in war-field equally if and when necessary. Though a valiant FF, camera was dearest to him in war field.

One of the organisers of FFs, Shafi left Jessore for Bongaon in West Bengal of India crossing Benapole border to fetch ammunition on March 28, 1971. He went to Bongaon in West Bengal for the same purpose on April 6, 1971. By this time Pak Army destroyed



A man with his hands tied behind is being tortured by a Pakistani soldier in Jessore on April 4, 1971

ists. Shafi Photography was the name of his studio. After some time, he came back home in Jessore and opened a studio, opposite Tashbir Mohal Cinema Hall. He then shifted the place and moved in a room at Rail Road, where he set up a photo laboratory.

His works were also appe-

port of their record. Shafi published a one-page calendar, for the year 1993 named 'Ikkattorer Jessore' with a number of live coverages of Liberation War printed.

Recently a show-room 'Gourabangan' near Ararup in the gate-way to Jessore Cantonment has been built at

after following the procession of his pictures in Jessore town with dead body of Chambala, killed by Pak Army on March 3, 1971, which was published on the daily Iffeqa on April 6,

71. Since then he went on hiding to escape notice of local administration. He again appeared after imposition of army crackdown on March 25, 1971.

The former deputy commissioner of Jessore, M Akhter Ali allotted abandoned property for his rehabilitation in 1974. Now after a decade, third party has cropped up and filed dispute in court seeking order for his eviction from there.

S M Shafi has a lot of certificates in his personal file from many political and military high officials for presenting them rare pictures of Liberation War.

Shafi in his young age was an active member as photo-journalist of Jessore press club. Still he renders valuable services to local journalists by collecting pictures. He remains busy with taking pictures of any social cultural functions, political meeting, hartal or any movement. He works day and night in arranging pictures on Liberation War serially for publication in volume form. He has complained that some local pressmen tampered his pictures from the show-room and published in national dailies in their name with avert attempt to downplay his credit.

He is at his sixties now, very hard and energetic. Shafi is known for his independent spirit, outspoken and courageous views. He never compromised on matters of principle. S M Shafi's pictures, are indeed very rare which can tell hundreds of untold stories of Liberation War in Jessore.

There are many things to unearth from him on this subject.

When asked, whether he has any plan to make best use of his pictures, carefully preserved so far, he told Daily Star that he has plans to publish an album for handing over to next generation enabling them to know real history of Liberation War fairly, impartially and passionately. But due to fund constraint, he could not take up the work yet.



The Supreme Commander of the allied forces, Lt Gen Jagjit Singh Aurora welcoming Commander of Sector No. 8, General Osmani at Muktinagar, Jessore. The picture was taken sometimes in first week of December, 1971

his laboratory and show-room, named Photo Focus at Rail Road Jessore and house at Jhum-Jhumpur and launched swift hunt to track him. His family comprising of his wife and three children were able to save their lives by fleeing in advance.

On way back from India, Shafi and his team mates were seriously injured in a clash with a contingent of Pak Army at Rajorhat on April 8, 71. Shafi was immediately taken to Indian medical hospital at Jhinkergacha, nine miles from Jessore. From there, he was referred to a hospital in India for further treatment. He was released from there after one month.

Shafi joined No. 8 Talukhola training camp at Bongaon and came back to Bangladesh after completing training. He led operations against Pak force at Khajura, Boyra, Shiroim and Goga border. He has been miraculously saved on many occasions while taking pictures from battlefields.

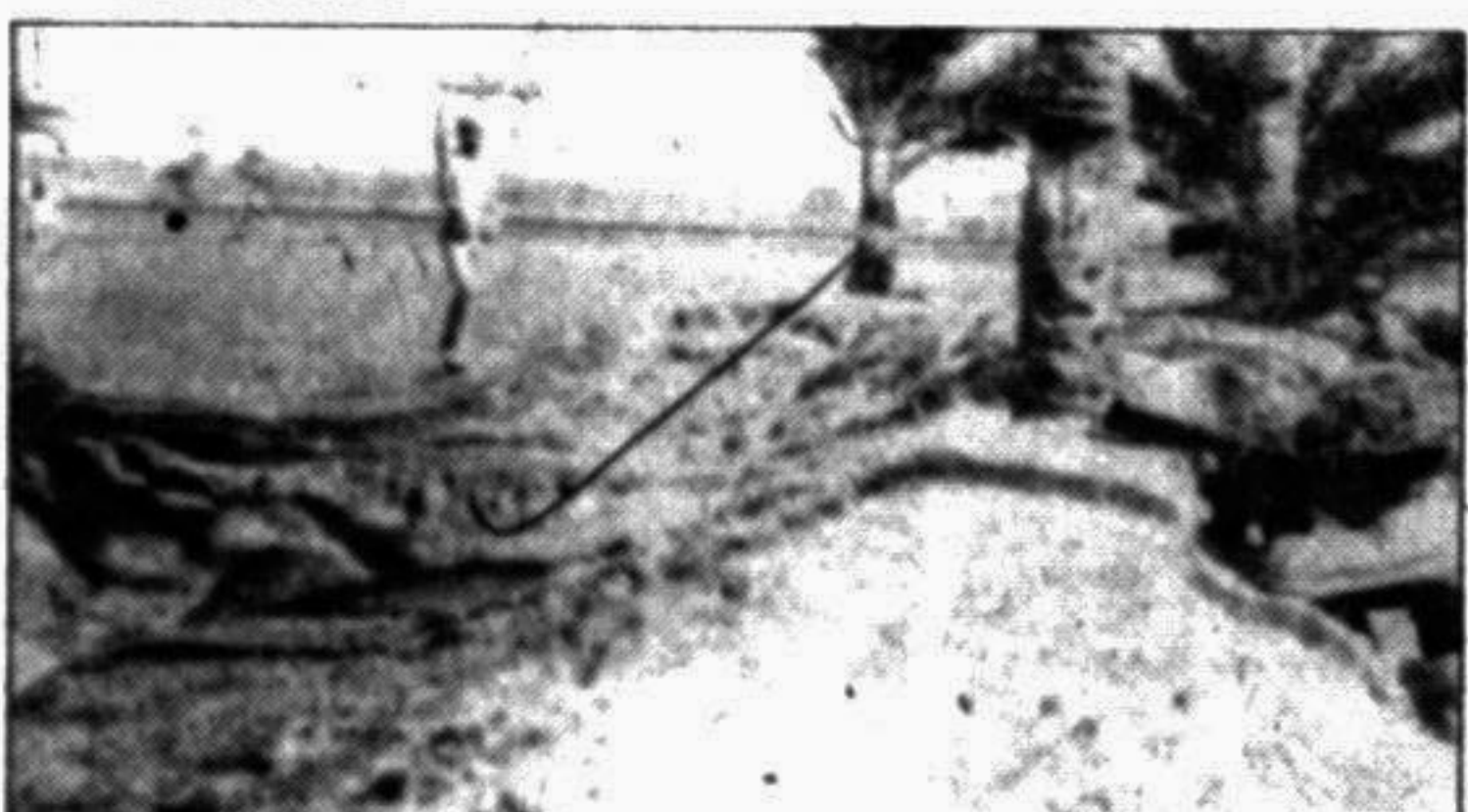
Shafi took over 200 rare pictures of enemy actions in battlefield from different fronts of Jessore western sector during the war.

He spent the whole period of nine months of Liberation War risking his own life. It is learnt he sent many reels of his film to Indian journalists for publication. Later those pictures were not sent back. Pictures on Liberation War, taken by S M Shafi from battlefield during worst period of the war were published in Indian national dailies including the Ananda Bazar, Amrito Bazar, Patrika, Jugantar, Economic Times.

S M Shafi was prominent among FFs during the war for his contribution in photo-journalism.

S M Shafi was born in Jessore town in 1934. His father, S Dalil Uddin tried hard to educate his son but in vain.

He left home suddenly in 1945 and bought a camera from Calcutta at Taka 61 only. His work then was to use one reel of film a week. His father disliked this. He left home again to avoid father's supervision and came to Darjeeling



The Pakistani soldiers on May 15, 1971 surrendering to allied forces during a battle of Muktinagar in Chutipur village, Jessore.

created by Sher-e-Bangla Fazul Haque, H S Suhrawardy, Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasant and Bangabandhu Sk Mujib.

Many of his rare pictures were put on display in Dhaka, Jessore, Rangpur besides many other places including Chowgacha, Jhinkergacha. The

the initiative of GOE Maj General Mustafizur Rahman Sir-Bikram. A large number of rare pictures of Liberation War have been put on display there and 80 per cent of the pictures have been donated by S M Shafi.

Shafi's house is a small museum now. It is full of pictures



The people of Jessore surrounded the enemy soldiers in front of the telephone office building on March 3, 1971.

All photos in this story were taken by S M Shafi during the Liberation War.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director
Department of Public Health Engineering
Second Water Supply & Sanitation Project
(9 Dist. Towns Water Supply & Sanitation Project)
2/3, Outer Circular Road, Maghbazar, Dhaka.

Tender Notice
Tender Notice for International Shopping for the Supply of 3 (three) Nos. Jeep (Contract No: PMU IS-01) under ADB Loan No. 1264 BAN (SF)

Memo No. 145/PD/DPE/90 Dated: 26-12-94

- The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a Loan (No. 1264 BAN (SF)) from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in various currencies towards the cost of Second Water Supply and Sanitation Project. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this credit will be applied to eligible payments for procurement of Project equipment/vehicles.
- Project Director, Second Water Supply and Sanitation Project, Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) now wishes to invite sealed bids from eligible bidders from member countries of ADB for the supply and delivery of the above referenced vehicles.
- Bid documents with detailed specifications, terms and conditions and other papers may be purchased by the interested eligible bidders on submission of a written application and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Taka 2,000.00 (Taka Two thousand) only at the i) Office of Project Director, DPHE, Second Water Supply & Sanitation Project, 2/3, Outer Circular Road, Maghbazar, Dhaka ii) Office of the Executive Engineer, DPHE, Store Division, Segunbagicha, Dhaka on all working days during normal office hours up to 26th January 1995.
- All bids, accompanied by a security of 2.00% (two per cent) of the total Bid price must be delivered either via mail or in person to the above offices on or before 12:00 hours (local time) on 5th February 1995. No bid will be considered for receipt or acceptance following expiry of the aforementioned date and time. The bids will be publicly opened at 12:30 hours on the same day in the presence of those representatives of the bidders who like to attend.
- The authority will not be responsible for any cost or expenses incurred by the bidders in connection with the preparation of delivery of bids.
- The authority reserves the right to accept any tender, or to accept any part of the tender or to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason therefor and in such case no compensation will be entertained.

M A Kalam
Project Director, DPHE
Second Water Supply & Sanitation Project (9 Towns)
145/PD/1454/27/12
G-12 2/3, Outer Circular Road, Maghbazar, Dhaka.